

Deer Lake United Church

LAKESHORE LINES

June, 2006

Free – and worth every cent!



Visioning Process

By Gloria F

The first stage of our Visioning Process is now complete. On April 30th, our full Vision Statement was presented at a Congregational Meeting. Members suggested a few changes, but on the whole the congregation thought that it captured the essence of what Deer Lake is about. The core Vision Statement appears in the lower left corner of this page; the expanded version clarifying its meaning is printed on page five.

Our consultant, Rev. Dr. Brian Fraser, led a Board Retreat on May 12th and 13th. The purpose was to consider the best ways in which to provide leadership and support in implementing the vision and strategies developed by the congregation during the Visioning process. Board members looked at the challenges identified in the Congregational Questionnaire and chose what seemed to be the three most pressing ones. These were discussed and clearly defined as three areas of focus for the coming year:

- To honour the needs of children, youth and families by providing relevant Christian Education year round and to develop inspired, energized and resourceful leadership.

Continued on page 4

Farewell, Dear Friends

By Garry F

In less than two weeks this April, we lost two of our dearest friends. On April 16th, Marguerite L. Currie passed away suddenly, and on April 30th Frank Currie passed away after suffering a stroke just over a year earlier.

Marguerite was a long-time member of Deer Lake United Church. In fact, she joined Douglas United Church after she and husband Lanny moved to Burnaby in 1958, and she persevered through the difficult amalgamation of Deer Lake, Douglas

and St. Matthews Churches. Lanny died just two years after the birth of their second daughter, and Marguerite found herself, at the age of forty-something, a single mother holding down a full-time job – what we now call a Super Mom.

She was a CGIT leader and President of the UCW, and she remained an active member of the UCW at Deer Lake until it was wound down in 2002. As our Sunshine Committee of one, Marguerite touched the lives of many of us. She was on top of the goings-on at Deer Lake and made sure that

Continued on page 2

Vision Statement

Deer Lake United Church welcomes you into a Christian community for all ages that explores and expresses spirituality through:

- worship and music
- fun and fellowship
- caring and outreach
- involvement and growth

INSIDE

Ripples Around the Lake	2	Expanded Vision Statement	5
Message from the Minister	3	Fine Dining	6
Summer Services	3	Men's Retreat	8
DLUC Women's Group	4	The Nursery	9
Sunday School	4	Christ's Light	10
Letter from Nick J	4	Dancing with God	10

Ripples Around the Lake

Allison M recently sat the Grade 10 Royal Conservatory piano exam, achieving a very good result and is now studying for her ARCT.

On May 27th, **Thomas** and **John Henry M** competed in a regional karate tournament, and brought home two medals each in kata and kumite. They train in the Shotokan style with the Burnaby Karate Club.

Aaron S ran exceptionally well in the Sun Run doing 10K in less than 45 minutes. He will be moving up to Grade 11 in September and continue with the Intermediate Concert and Jazz band at school.

Nicole S is moving up Grade 8 at Burnaby Central and is on the Under 14 Girls Gold Soccer Team. She will soon be writing her Grade 6 Royal Conservatory Piano.

Carli S is in London England for a year after graduating from Douglas College in Criminology. **Tanya S** won a full scholarship and is now graduating from the Columbia Academy School of TV Broadcasting.

Brock S has landed a plum job in the Prime Minister's office on the B.C. desk, keeping the PM up to snuff with BC happenings, whilst his brother **Kirk** is in Medical school in Ireland.

Elizabeth W has graduated with a BSc. in Psychology from the Northern University of BC. She will again be at Narimata this summer leading the Senior Youth program! Big brother **Andrew** is working in Sweden having completed his Masters in Mechanical Engineering, while younger brother **Peter** is teaching in Japan.

Ross D recently returned from the biggest slum in the world called Kibera in Nairobi Kenya. He has been there since August 2005, working for an NGO

through the commonwealth games society. His program was called "Kicking AIDS Out". Ross will be attending medical school in the fall at U.B.C.

Chantel McB has graduated from Capilano College with a diploma in Interactive Design. She was on the Dean's list for all four terms and now is working at Creative Spirit in web programming.

Carli T -H is still working in Uganda doing her practicum with AIDS patients. For more information, see their website www.ugandaproject.blogspot.com

Kathy & Doug R's twin grandsons, **Jonah & Nate**, were born, on April 2nd, weighing in at 7 lbs., 1oz and 4 lbs., 14 oz. respectively. Nate has since "put on a few pounds" and weighs about the same as Jonah. Parents **Dean & Robyn** are doing very well.

Ernie & Marlene C will soon be back from their two-month tour of Europe, visiting their daughter and family.

Pat Y is off to England this summer to visit her mom and family and then Scotland to see daughter **Sue**. **Rev. Scott and family** are taking care of Casey, Pat's shiatsu-poodle for a month. What fun! (**Jim** will have a month to bone up on his housekeeping skills and cooking for one!)

The **McW s (Don & Jean)** are off to North Carolina where Don spent much of his younger years.

Glen & Audrey L will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sept 1st. They will be embarking on a cruise from Alaska to Beijing, and then enjoying a two-week tour of China. We look forward to a full report when you return Audrey.

Sue Y has been accepted into Napier University, Edinburgh and will start in September

Farewell continued from page 1

cards were sent to graduates, volunteers, the sick, the bereaved - anyone who deserved recognition or encouragement. The women of Deer Lake especially will miss Marguerite - a friend, a confidant, a companion - always ready with a quiet smile or a kind word.

Frank held a very special place in the hearts of everyone at Deer Lake, but especially the men. He was what you would call a lovable rascal, and he caused his share of trouble. Until his stroke in 2001, Frank was a regular attendee at Deer Lake, sometimes bringing along his dog, much to Myrtle's chagrin. No-one could tell a better story or recite a poem better than Frank Currie could. We always looked forward to his recital of "In Flanders Fields" on Remembrance Day. For years he pestered Myrtle and others for an opportunity to put on a repeat performance of "A Streetcar Named Perspire." Gun-shy from the first episode, she refused, but finally, in 2001, Myrtle relented, and on January 26, 2002 Frank and a group of conspirators entertained the congregation with this uproariously funny skit. It was a memorable occasion.

Frank was a faithful member of the Tuesday morning Men's Breakfast group. He initiated the Men's Retreat in 1972 when he invited the church men to his cabin for "a bit of fun". Although the retreats were a bit different back then, they have remained an annual highlight for the men of Deer Lake United Church. Frank was sorely missed at the last two retreats.



Sunshine Committee

After Marguerite L passed away, we were without a "Sunshine Committee." Trish S is taking on this task with your help. If you know of anyone in the congregation who would need a card from the Church, please call Trish at 604- - with the information.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH THE COLLECTION?
MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.
PLEASE SEE MARY C IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP.

A Busy and Blessed Year

By Rev. G. Scott Turnbrook

This has been a very busy year around the Lake! Aside from the active church life which makes Deer Lake such an exciting place, we have undergone a Visioning process as a congregation as well as completing the first stage of a Policy and Procedure Manual. On top of that, we have welcomed many new faces into the Deer Lake church community. This has been a busy year, indeed.

As the weather increasingly warms up and the skies promise more sunshine than rain, it seems fitting for us to now take some time to pause our spiritual lives and consider how God's presence has been experienced in this past year of our church life together. I see God's presence as both wind and light guiding and strengthening what has occurred.

I continue to be amazed at how richly blessed we are at Deer Lake through our many committed members and friends. We continue to maintain and administer a beautiful church building and grounds in a lovely location. Each week over one thousand people flow through this building for worship, education and community events. Our worship has increasingly been blessed by more and more people who have shared their spirituality and gifts to make this gathering a uniquely rich blessing. As pastoral needs arise, there has been a unity in serving and reaching out to those members in our community experiencing delicate times. Cornerstones of our faith community continues to be forgiveness and grace as tempers flare and points of view differ. Is it any surprise that more and more people are calling Deer Lake "home" ?

Both the Visioning and Policy and Procedures initiatives will serve us well into the future. My work on the National U.C.C. campaign "Emerging Spirit", focusing on ministry with people between the ages of 30-45, served to highlight the complex and need-driven future that will increasingly face our churches. Our clarity in purpose and vision will serve us well in allowing us to discern what we can do and what we cannot. In the future of church specialization, it will serve us well to base our decisions on our strengths and vision. The Policy and Procedures initiative will also allow us to be both faithful and efficient in our stewardship of church resources. As we anticipate acting in more unique and diverse ways, clarity will serve us well indeed.

In many ways this is a most challenging time to be the church; however, it is also a most blessed time to be the church as well. May we find Sabbath rest and renewal through our summer times. May we continue to find God amidst our lives and our communities.

Shalom,

Scott

Summer Service Guest Worship Leaders

The Worship Committee at Deer Lake is delighted to announce our Summer 2006 guest worship leaders. See you in church!

Sunday July 2nd – Jean MacL and Don W are two of our four choir directors and provide liturgical leadership a few times each year. Jean is at the mid-point in her position as chair of Westminster Presbytery and Don refers to his new position as "The First Husband". We look forward to their leadership on the Canada Day Long Weekend.

Sunday July 30th – Marie P is an active member of our church community. Marie continues as chair of our Outreach Committee and is one of our Sunday School teachers. Having just completed her first course at the Vancouver School of Theology with Dr. Sallie McFague, Marie will share some of her theological learnings.

Sunday August 6th – Rev. Wilda Cottam is an Ordained Minister with the United Church currently living in Victoria. She has

served parishes in Nanaimo and Port Hardy and was a seminary classmate with our minister. If the surname sounds familiar, it should. Wilda is also the proud mother of Elizabeth C -H , our Christian Education chairperson! We look forward to welcoming Rev. Wilda over from the island.

Sunday August 13th – Nick J is a student minister at the Vancouver School of Theology and has just completed his first year of field education studies at Deer Lake. Nick returns in the fall to begin his second year of field studies with Deer Lake. We look forward to supporting and hearing from our "newest theological student" from Deer Lake.

Sunday September 3rd – Carli T -H is the Youth Leader at Deer Lake and is a student in the Social Worker program at Douglas College. Carli has recently completed a field placement at an aids clinic in Uganda. We look forward to hearing her reflections which may include stories from Uganda as well as Deer Lake.

Visioning continued from page 1

- To seek ways to connect long-time members with newer families and to acknowledge our elders' historical and current contributions to the church.
- To raise awareness of today's issues in relation to Biblical teachings, of outreach we are doing, and of outreach others are doing; and to discern what we are best able to do.

Where do we go from here? Our goal now should be to let the Visioning Statement become a part of our normal way of thinking, a guide for the decisions we make, and a "push" to keep us looking for ways to do even better. In the first year, we should not expect to solve all the challenges; all we may do is to identify the resources needed and perhaps some possible approaches, but we will be on our way. As Brian said in his sermon on May 28th, "...the journey to delivering on those promises even more faithfully, effectively, and wisely, in the face of the fears that will inevitably arise, has just begun."

Sunday School Teachers Needed for September!

We are going to offer a new Sunday School class for Sept. This class will be for 3-5 yr olds in addition to our K-Grade 2 and Grade3-6 classes. This means we need more teachers!

Teaching requires a block commitment (i.e., from 2 Sundays in a row or one month. Whatever fits your schedule. We are flexible.) and a criminal record check. We have a wonderful team of teachers. If you are interested in joining this Ministry please contact Elizabeth C at 604-

PS. A special call is out to Dads, or any other men, that might be interested in joining the Sunday School Team.

DLUC Women's Group

By Carol P

The Women's Group has continued to meet every second Wednesday and to work on our stitching meditations. Some amazing stitching has grown from this work, which was a surprise because so many thought they could not stitch. There was also lots of friendly chatter and assistance given where requested.

For Easter we viewed a video called Mary, Mother of Jesus and had a great lunch at Eileen M's home. From the video we began a discussion of our understanding of prayer. We continued our study of the labyrinth by making a chalk labyrinth in the parking lot and spending time walking it and discussing our impressions. Later in May we met at Carol Pettigrew's home and used our stitching meditations to make a wisdom book in which to save our favourite prayers and words of wisdom.

On Wed., June 14, we shall be making a trip to St. Paul's Anglican Church in Vancouver to walk the labyrinth. We will carpool from DLUC leaving at about 7:45 a.m. and if you are interested in joining us, please call Carol and let her know.

We will be finishing up our last meeting with a lunch at Eileen's home. Yummmm! Food seems to play a major part of our gatherings.

Dear Deer Lake friends,

I am writing this quickly to make sure it gets into the newsletter. I leave tomorrow for a vacation in Grand Canyon, Arizona and my first cruise (to the Mexican Riviera)--and the packing has still to be done!!

It seems like just yesterday that we were saying goodbye. I am enjoying the CDs of music from Donna and the choir. You may have noticed that I have found it hard to stay away! Thanks to the Care Ringers, I have kept up-to-date with what is happening in the church community. I have attended moving memorial services in which we have celebrated long faithful lives. The community has also experienced the conclusion, and beginning of the application of the Visioning process, led so well by Rev. Dr. Brian Fraser.

I am delighted to let those of you who do not know, that the Board and the Reverend Scott Turnbrook have agreed to allow me to continue to learn at Deer Lake in what will be my second year practical education at Vancouver School of Theology. I am very grateful to you all for this second opportunity.

Well what does this involve, you may be wondering. My field placement, which will start officially in September, will mean that I will spend between ten and fourteen hours per week in "hands on participation". This will include preparation time for, and leading worship, planning and leading an educational event, pastoral care, as well as meetings with the Reverend Scott Turnbrook and with a small group of congregation members for feedback and guidance. All this is designed to train me for ministry--and you are great trainers.

I am looking forward to this new phase in our relationship. I welcome your calls and/or questions about Vancouver School of Theology, my programme, or just to chat.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick J

Expanded Vision Statement

1. WHO WE ARE:

**Deer Lake United Church
welcomes you into a Christian community for all ages
that explores and expresses spirituality through:**

- **worship and music**
- **fun and fellowship**
- **caring and outreach**
- **involvement and growth**

2. WHAT THIS MEANS TO US:

Explore and Express Spirituality

At Deer Lake United Church, we provide opportunities for continuing faith development by providing personal and communal opportunities to *explore* & *express* our faith. *Exploration* occurs when we individually and/ or communally engage in spiritual practices such as worship, prayer and study. *Expression* occurs when we share our gifts and talents through service in the church and in the world. Opportunities for *exploration* & *expression* are viewed as catalysts for growth in the Way of Jesus Christ and form the very foundation of our ministry.

Welcome

At Deer Lake United Church all groups and individuals are encouraged to *explore* how their behaviours, activities and policies contribute to a sense of welcoming for all people who enter our community.

We express our welcome on Sundays by maintaining a clean, safe and visually attractive building, having greeters at the door, providing nametags, assisting with seating, extending invitations and encouragement to attend coffee time and other functions, speaking with people we do not know well, answering inquiries, and by smiling. Deer Lake is a place where all people, from the newest arrival to longtime attender, feel welcomed, valued and respected.

Throughout the rest of the week, we *express* our welcome by invitations to our homes and events, by providing food, and by phone calls, prayers, and visits to those who are ill or in need of support.

For All Ages

At Deer Lake United Church we *explore* our desire to be a community for all ages by encouraging our groups and individuals to consider how everyone can be involved, supported and respected in our community, and how resources can best be allocated to meet the needs of all groups within Deer Lake.

We *express* our multigenerational commitment by respecting and honouring all ages and by encouraging their participation within worship and throughout the week. We value opportunities for all ages to participate together and get to know each other as members of our church family.

Christian Community

At Deer Lake United Church we encourage all groups and individuals to explore the meaning of Christian spirituality and in our life and work to consider the guidance provided by Jesus.

We *explore* our Christian faith in an open, questioning, non-judgmental way through worship, Sunday school, youth group, theological study and discussion, retreats, and ongoing groups. We *express* our close sense of community through willingness to discuss and listen to a variety of perspectives in a safe and respectful environment and through our enjoyment of working and playing together.

Worship and Music

At Deer Lake United Church all groups and individuals *explore* God's purpose and meaning in our lives and *express* our gratitude through worship and music.

We *express* our Christian faith by living in relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Sunday and other special services are involving and thought-provoking. We encourage participation of all ages, recognizing and developing the gifts of the congregational members. A wide variety of music is used in our worship services as people share their musical gifts. Through liturgical arts we encourage the beautification of the sanctuary and the inclusion of artistic gifts in our worship.

Fun and Fellowship

At Deer Lake United Church we *explore* ways in which our faith community can enjoy fun and fellowship together through worship, work and play.

We *express* fun and fellowship in everything we do, helping form the connections we enjoy as a small community.

Caring and Outreach

At Deer Lake United Church all groups and individuals are encouraged to *explore* ways they can be caring in their activities and policies, and to *explore* ways of increasing awareness of those in need of care.

We *express* our desire to be a caring congregation and to reach out to the world at large both as individuals and through our Pastoral Care and Outreach committees, and we keep the congregation informed of these activities. We are respectful and loving as we work locally and globally for peace and justice.

Involvement and Growth

At Deer Lake United Church all groups and individuals are encouraged to explore, identify, develop and utilize the talents and gifts of our community.

We *express* our desire for personal growth and congregational viability by remaining open to being led by the Holy Spirit as we act on and share our Christian beliefs through worship services, committees, workshops, study groups, retreats, and social activities. We regularly recognize and appreciate people's gifts and their service within and outside of the church.

It Certainly Wasn't Your Typical Dine and Dash

By Don S

What do the Youth Group, Gerald P and his wife, Sandra, and fine dining have in common? Apparently quite a bit.

On the way home from a recent vacation in the States, Gerald and Sandra got to thinking how they could make a difference and have a ton of fun with our Youth Group. The obvious answer: food.

On April 2, Gerald and Sandra hosted the first of two formal dinners with the Youth Group. The first - Formal Dining 101 - featured hands-on experience in planning and preparing a meal and a mini-workshop that answered that age old question, "what *are* those 17 pieces of cutlery, 12 glasses and all those plates and bowls for anyway???" They then learned about formal etiquette and about inviting someone for dinner. And that is precisely what they did. Each team produced a formal invitation inviting someone else's parents to dinner the following Sunday.

Oh, and did I mention the *15 course* meal they consumed that first evening? It was only supposed to be eight courses, but Sandra thought it would be *nice* if the kids were able to choose from this expanded menu. At least one of the Youth Group members was still full two days later!

Early the following Sunday afternoon, our youth once again gathered at Gerald and Sandra's to prepare the coming feast. As the adults arrived that evening, they were welcomed and made comfortable in the sitting room with a fine glass of wine (or two). Curiously, there was a large tray of 18 glasses in varying shapes and sizes featured on the coffee table. When all parents had arrived, we were then challenged to name each and describe its particular use. It was obvious that *some* parents



Does anyone know what all of that cutlery is for? Just ask one of the youth. They can tell you!

were infinitely more experienced with these drinking devices than others!

Following a selection of three kinds of hors d'oeuvres and great conversation, we were ushered into the formal dining room for dinner. Grace was said and then it was time to *dig in*. Well not exactly... whoa down!! Fine dining takes time. We must *savour* the tastes and *cleanse* the pallet in time for the next gastronomic onslaught. And an onslaught it was.

For the next three or so hours, we were treated to a splendid eight-course dinner. Sandra and her charges created course after course of Carrot with Ginger Soup, Bocconcini and Tomato Salad, Poached Wild Salmon and Roasted Nuggetines with Rosemary. Each team of two took turns 'plating', and then serving each course. The next team would then clear the previous course and plate and serve the next course. Oh and did I mention the Beggar's Purses with Creamy Garlic Sauce or the Chicken Cordon Bleu? Heavenly, just heavenly.

We ended the evening with a selection of desserts: Cherries Jubilee, a cheese tray with grapes, Angel Food Cake and Truffles. I had the "yes please."

Sometime after 10:00 we rolled out the front door (quite literally) and on home to sweet dreams filled with cherries and truffles and other fine foods.

Sandra's culinary skill, the kids' enthusiasm, their parents' appetites and Gerald's great dishwashing skill - all made for an evening the Youth Group and the parents will not soon forget. Our huge thanks to our 'uber'-hosts, Gerald and Sandra. Say, what's for breakfast??



Carli, Michael and the youth group sit in anticipation of the forthcoming culinary extravaganza.

THE UPPER ROOM

This is a bi-monthly publication offering a daily devotional guide. Below is a page selection.

This booklet will be available in September for a \$2 donation. Imagine having your own Spiritual Guide for just a \$1 a month. Look on the table in the Narthex, or ask at the office for a copy.

To make sure we have ordered enough, please sign up in the Hall for your Upper Room Guide.

Christian Education Ministry

In Perspective

Read Matthew 5:38-42

If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.

-Matthew 5:39 (NRSV)

OFTEN we associate these words of Jesus with a physical attack, but I am sure that Jesus also meant emotional strikes against us. But doesn't this advice contradict what we see in our culture? Don't we see people striking back when they have been struck? Or we see them getting their blows in first, before they are hit! Often people are on the defensive, poised for battle at any moment. Being an aggressor is easier than being a quiet voice of calm and peace.

Jesus offers a more stable, self-assured way that diffuses hate. When we respond with compassion and calm to those who wrong us, we de-fuse their anger. When we respond in hate and anger, we fuel the fire, enabling hard feelings to escalate.

My mother says, "Don't spend a thousand dollars of emotion on a ten-cent irritation." What good advice! We are sometimes willing to spend so much emotional energy on trivial matters that we have little left to show the love of Christ to others. But we can reverse the trend of anger and hate. We can put our irritations in Christian perspective and allow the peace of Christ to rule in our heart.

Thomas Vann (Tennessee, U.S.A.)

PRAYER

God, teach us to meet hate with love, and aggression with the calm voice of your peace. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

How can I show others the love of Christ today?

PRAYER FOCUS

For peace among nations

gordon: let me find you a tasty one with pink inside. of course, i'll have to check them all first.

frank: easy there buddy. don't chip a tooth over it now.

Visit a Bell store for details.
Go to bell.ca/wireless or call 1 888 7 GO BELL.

We don't normally carry commercial advertisements in *Lakeshore Lines*, but this Bell ad was just too perfect to pass up. Gordon the Candy Man and Frank the Dentist! How perfect is that?!

Who Says Men Can't Communicate? The Men's Retreat – June 2 - 4, 2006

By Don S

What do you get when you take 19 men, 20 lbs of steak, a faith as big as the sky, and mix them together for 3 days in a West Coast paradise? Why, the 34th Annual DLUC Men's Retreat, of course!

This weekend, our Men's Group made the trek to the new Parksville home of Jo and Sandy D – a truly breathtaking oceanfront retreat. Our theme for the weekend was "Communication in a Christian Context."

Some of those fortunate enough to arrive a day early took advantage of a scenic west coast trip aboard the historic M.V. Lady Rose. She traveled between Port Alberni and Ucluelet taking in the Alberni Inlet and the scenic Broken Island chain. If you've never been, it's a trip that explores the rugged beauty of the coast – well worth the time.

Our good friend, Bill H prepared the formal agenda that began Saturday morning. Although he was unable to join us, Bill *was* in our midst the entire time through his well-researched and insightful program. We began with an overview of communication – from its origins,



non-verbal and verbal through to the written word. Technological advance – from cuneiform on clay tablets and pyramid hieroglyphics to written documents on paper, from the invention of

radio, television and ultimately electronic communication, the Internet and blogging, and significantly more in between! – the stage was set for a fascinating exploration of this critical subject.

Following coffee and a bit of non-verbal communication fun, we explored ways to improve our own awareness of body language. We discussed how we use posture, our hands, eyes and touch to impact what we are trying to 'say'. We also began to develop an appreciation for the effect that cultural differences have on body language.

But what, might you ask, has communication to do with Spirit living? Can we use Scripture to influence how we communicate using modern technology in our daily lives? Is it really feasible and practical to use a spirit model when we communicate in business, at home and in the community?

Our challenge was to use the answers to these and many more questions to draft a group model for communicating. We left our session with the challenge to person-



Continued on next page

Retreat continued from previous page

alize this model for use in our own lives. This was truly a relevant and important topic. Our thanks go to Bill for a tremendously well-researched topic, and to Bob C and his facilitators for their leadership.

With the weather in fine form, we spent the rest of the afternoon hiking through nearby Cathedral Grove in MacMillan Provincial Park – home to a forest of 800-year-old Douglas-firs and Western red cedars. Spectacular Englishman River Falls and a quick stop at Coombs were also on the agenda.

We have come to expect great cooking during the weekend and we weren't disappointed. Doug R's rendition of gourmet chowder filled the bill (as well as our stomachs) on Friday, while Big Bob's brilliant steak BBQ on our final night did not disappoint! Raucous games of bridge, crib and Scrabble, beach walks and lots of good-hearted jokes ('Not here Tony') rounded out the days. In addition, a surprise guest appearance of a legendary folk singer (aka Bob M) inspired all singers (and would-be singers) to create a joyous sound.

Our last day began with Sunday morning service. A welcoming and inspiring letter from Rev. Scott was read to lead off the morning. Rev. George Stegen then led a rich, well-grounded service to embrace and summarize all that we had discussed this weekend. He spoke of his theology, an uncluttered, down-to-earth common man's vision of God and his relationship with his children. I think what he was saying is that we are 'spiritual beings having a human experience'. We needn't look to the sky to find God, for He is surely the spark in each one of us. All the men then shared communion

in the old tradition. For me this was a real high point of the weekend!

And finally, a few personal observations.. I am amazed (as always) with how *everything* just gets done. Sure, a core group of the guys has organized the menu and shopping and stuff. But beyond that, once here, everyone lends a hand. Cooking, serving, cleaning, leading – and without a hitch.

I was also overwhelmed at how well – to a man – we got on with one another. Whether long-time friends or brand new friends, all took advantage of the chance to get to know one another better. Throughout the weekend I surveyed the room filled with banter and laughter and good-natured jibes and was enrapt by the camaraderie of this group of 19 friends. Talk was of relationships and wives, children and grandchildren, the merits of

Aussie vs. German vs. Canadian beer, of politics and World Cup hopefuls, of Scripture and of faith. In all ways we were communicating.

This was the first Retreat where two of our best friends were no longer with us. We remembered Gordon G, our Candyman brother, a source of quiet inspiration; and Frank C, long time jokester, orator and the one who initiated this Retreat tradition back in about 1972. Although they were both badly missed, their presence was felt throughout the weekend.

Finally, to Jo and Sandy, we offer our warmest thanks for a special weekend in such a beautiful setting. We celebrated our faith in God over a weekend full of fun, communication and fellowship. Cheers lads.. a real fair dinkum Retreat!!



The Nursery

In this congregation at the present time we have around 9 children between the ages of 0-4. On any given Sunday some of these can be found playing together in the nursery, beginning to form their first church friends. Sometimes a Christian story is read to them; sometimes they play with Play Dough or make something special to take home.

So that this can continue to happen throughout the summer, we are having the Nursery staffed, and are inviting 0-5 year olds to come, bring friends perhaps, and feel at home.

There will be Pew Packs ready to be handed out to those in grades 1-3 and 4-6, stocked with age-appropriate materials, to keep them occupied during the service. We encourage you to continue to come to church in the summertime and know that we welcome the children to come with you.

Christ's Light

Meditation by Marie P

In this Easter season I have experienced two powerful moments of new life and healing.

It's been a long difficult year for me, from the time my Dad passed away one year ago. But where I have felt overwhelmed and given up on my career goals, there were brand new acquaintances at VST who easily offered me my first networking opportunity and my first positive career move in a long time.

On the first Sunday of this month, May 7th, I joined First United for their afternoon 4 pm worship service and potluck dinner.

It took some tricky timing and coordinating and a bus ride to get me there. I felt like I was making a big effort to give up my family time on a busy social Sunday. This was **me**, making the big sacrifice to give up **my** time and accompany *them* to support *their* mission to needy, homeless people.

I just love having my assumptions turned upside down and my perspective shift, about who is needy and who has gifts to offer.

At First United, they opened their service with a time of lighting prayer candles, and giving healing touch and basins of water for foot washing. (Which was especially appropriate after their marathon running fundraiser.) While some had their feet washed, others took turns lighting prayer candles for those who feel like every day is a marathon.

My hands ache and hurt constantly from the early onset of arthritis and the best relief I've found is soaking them in warm water, so I accepted their offer of healing.

I came to serve and found myself welcomed and healed, in a loving supportive community. There is a richness in that committed group of friends from across the lower mainland, working together at First United.

I see the light of Christ in these unexpected moments of grace. I hope I'll see your light shining, and hear your voice singing, at First United on the first Sundays of the month.

Dancing with God

Submitted by Don W

When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.

When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw "G: I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i". "God" "u" and "i" "dance": God, you and I dance.

As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

My prayer for you today is that God's blessings and mercies be upon you on this day and everyday.

May you abide in God as God abides in you.

Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.

This prayer is powerful and there is nothing attached.

If God has done anything for you in your life, please share this message with someone else, for prayer is one of the best gifts we can receive.

There is no cost but a lots of rewards; so let's continue to pray for one another.

And I Hope You Dance!!!



The Visioning Committee

Submissions

Lakeshore Lines will be published four times each year. Submissions may be made to one of the Communications Committee members (preferably by email):

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